

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07618 102304Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----111431Z 124706 /53

R 101650Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4501  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7618

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR LADOGES OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR,PL, VT  
SUBJECT: VATICAN-POLISH RELATIONS

1. VATOFF HAS INFORMED US THAT NUNCIO-AT-LARGE POGGI WILL RETURN TO POLAND MAY 20 TO CONTINUE VATICAN-GOP DIALOGUE ON IMPROVING RELATIONS. OUR SOURCE BELIEVES THAT THERE IS EXCELLENT CHANCE THAT THERE WILL BE AGREEMENT ON FORMULA WHICH WOULD UPGRADE PRESENT BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. ALTHOUGH HE WASN'T SPECIFIC ON "FORMULA," HE IMPLIED THAT IT WOULD INCLUDE THE PERMANENT PRESENCE IN WARSAW OF VATICAN REPRESENTATIVE. IF TRUE, IT SIGNIFIES A SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION ON PART OF POLISH PRIMATE, CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI, WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED DIRECT VATICAN PRESENCE IN POLAND AS CONSTITUTING "MEDDLING" IN HIS OWN MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS.

2. IN RELATED SUBJECT, VATOFF ALSO INFORMED US THAT FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK HAD WANTED TO VISIT ROME AND HAVE AUDIENCE WITH POPE PAUL IN JUNE 1977. VATICAN, HOWEVER, HAD INDICATED TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT  
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THAT JUNE WOULD BE "INOPPORTUNE" TIME AND SUGGESTED THAT GOI ENDEAVOR TO POSTPONE VISIT TO LATER DATE. WE ASSUME THAT VATICAN DECISION REFLECTED JUDGMENT THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE POLISH-VATICAN RELATIONSHIP ON MORE SOLID FOUNDATION PRIOR TO RECEIVING GIEREK.

3. VATICAN IS HAPPY WITH PROGRESS IN DIALOGUE WITH  
GOVERNMENT OF POLAND AND IT CONSIDERS THAT CHURCH POSITION  
IN POLAND IS THE BEST EXISTING IN EASTERN EUROPE. IN  
PRINCIPLE, VATICAN HAS AGREED TO SET UP AUDIENCE FOR  
GIEREK WITH POPE IN THE FALL OF 1977, BUT WITH GIEREK  
WEARING A GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN HIS PARTY HAT.GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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